

# **Washington County, Indiana collection S276**

---

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

July 23, 2014

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts  
140 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204  
317-232-3671

## Table of Contents

---

<u>Summary Information</u> .....	3
<u>Historical Note</u> .....	4
<u>Scope and Contents</u> .....	4
<u>Arrangement</u> .....	4
<u>Administrative Information</u> .....	4
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u> .....	5

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository</b>	Rare Books and Manuscripts
<b>Creator</b>	Trueblood, Oliver Q.
<b>Title</b>	Washington County, Indiana collection
<b>Date</b>	1931
<b>Extent</b>	0.01 Cubic feet 1 folder
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Text [Folder]</b>	S276

### Preferred Citation

Washington County, Indiana, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

## Historical Note

---

The story is about Joseph R. Coffin, who had just mustered out of the Union Army, following General Lee's surrender at Appomattox. "Uncle Joe" went to the 4th of July celebration at Bowman's Grove with Miss Florence Attkinson. The Copperheads of the area had a grudge against the Coffins because they had been active in the Underground Railroad in North Carolina, and were related to Levi Coffin of Ohio and Indiana fame. At the train depot, Bill Johnson confronted Joe Coffin with the statement: "Hurrah for Jeff Davis!" to which Joe retorted: "I guess he needs help, for he is in a pretty tight place just now." Joe Coffin was referring to the federal prison where Jefferson Finis Davis, the former president of the Confederate States of America, was then confined. As a result, a fist fight ensued. Jack Parker, the station agent, intervened and rescued Joe from being stabbed to death. Some time later, attorney Horace Heffren, a leader in the Knights of the Golden Circle, advised Joe Coffin to leave the area, rather than testify in a case about the death of William Johnson by Delos Heffren. Joe moved to Iowa where two uncles lived. While in Iowa, Joe married Susie Gerlds, also a former Washington County resident.

---

## Scope and Contents

---

Oliver Q. Trueblood wrote this four-page typed article, which was published in the *Republican Leader*, Salem, Indiana, on October 30, 1931.

---

## Arrangement

---

This collection is one four-page manuscript.

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

## **Conditions Governing Access**

This collection is open for research.

## **Conditions Governing Use**

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

## **Custodial History**

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation from Lillie D. Trueblood on 1934/09/08.

## **Accruals**

No further additions are expected.

## **Processing Information**

Collection processing and finding aid completed 2014/07/17 by Nikki Stoddard Schofield.

---

## **Controlled Access Headings**

---

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Salem (Ind.)
- Washington County (Ind.)

### **Personal Name(s)**

- Coffin, Joseph R.
- Coffin, Levi, 1798-1877
- Heffren, Delos
- Heffren, Horace
- Johnson, William

**Subject(s)**

- Article
- Underground railroad